



January 26, 2010

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 522
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

As you consider how to best leverage federal investment to create and retain jobs, we urge you to match the House's inclusion of \$300 million for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program provided in the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010.

The Federal Work-Study Program provides funds that are earned through part-time employment to assist needy students in financing the cost of college. Students can receive FWS funds at approximately 3,400 participating postsecondary institutions. The program has been one of the most effective federal student assistance programs because it provides students with much-needed funds and contains a work component, which helps integrate students into college life and helps them persist to graduation.

Federal Work-Study Program funds represent an efficient investment in job creation and are dispersed quickly to provide immediate economic impact. Of the \$200 million in additional FWS funding allocated through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), nearly 90 percent of all funds allocated for the FWS program had been spent as of Dec. 31, 2009, by qualifying schools to create jobs according to the Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>).

By providing funding for the Federal Work-Study Program, you will provide immediate employment and an economic impact while helping students reach the president's goal of America again leading the world in degree attainment by 2020.

On behalf of more than 80 organizations representing students, parents, faculty, staff and higher education institutions, we urge you to include \$300 million in Federal Work-Study Program funding in the Senate jobs bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly C. Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Warren".

David Warren
Co-Chairperson

